Notice and an unsolicited priced offer in May, 1983. Neither of these applications entitled them to pre-qualification. The first application did not contain the full and complete specifications of the coal offered and the second offer, apart from being unsolicited, did not meet the technical parameters of the coal required by SAIL.

Technology of mining polymetallic nodules from the sea bed

1189. SHRI P. N. SUKUL:

DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in developing an indigenous technology of mining, dewatering, transporting and processing of polymetallic nodules from the sea bed; and

(b) whether the International See Bed Authority has accepted India's claim of mining polymetallic nodules at a site in the Indian Ocean which is about ten degrees south of the equator?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE, ELECTRONICS AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) India does not yet have full indigenous technuology for mining polymetallic nodules from the deep sea. This is a high technology area in which only a few developed countries have done extensive work. Research & Development in the mining technology, environmental safeguard and other related information concerning the mine site will be accelerated as soon as the Preparatory Commission of the International Sea Bed Authority allots the pioneer site to India. No major difficulties are envisaged in dewatering (drying), as the technology for this is fairly well established. We have not yet been able to work out the details of the transportation technology from the mining site to shore-based centres. For processing the nodules, a laboratory scale technology for the extraction of copper, nickel and cobalt from the nodules has already been developed and all the thret metals hays been extracted from the nodules. Further work is in progress and several laboratories are processing the nodules.

(b) No, Sir. The Preparatory Commission of the Sea Bed Authority will take a decision on the application filed by India for the allotment of a 'Pioneer Area' only after the Rules of Procedure for the registration of 'Pioneer Investors' and the allotment of Pioneer Area have been finalised. These are being actively discussed these days.

Janata type colour T.V.

1190. SHRI SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether colour T.V. of janata type will be made available to people shortly; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT IN OF ELECTRONICS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI M. V. SANJEEVI RAO): (a) and (b) The fiscal component of the "Measures to Further Accelerate the Rapid Development of Electronics" announced in Parliament on August 18, 1983 was basically directed at reducing the costs of electronic products manufactured in the country. As such, it also included various elements relating to TV Receivers. For example, the customs duty on imported components such as CTV tubes, integrated circuits, resistors, capacitors, etc. has been reduced from 158 per cent to 75 per cent, the customs duty on capital equipment initially needed for manufacture of electronics products, has been reduced from 35 per cent to 25 per cent the excise duty on CTV receivers has been reduced from 25 per cent + 5 per cent surcharge to 15 per cent, for Black & White Sets within a screen size below 51 cms., this has been reduced to 5 per cent. As a result of these reductions, some manufacturers have already advertised customer prices of CTV Sets in Delhi in the range of Rs. 5570 to 5800 which are the lowest in the country.